

The time is long overdue for the Federal Government to lead in the development and promotion of energy-efficient technologies and alternative and renewable fuels. The plans are ready to go. The needs and the potential impacts on our nation's energy use are great. All that is left is to do is to provide the funding needed to purchase and install the proper equipment. This bill does just that.

I thank Mr. MICA, Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ms. NORTON, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for joining me on this critical, bipartisan initiative. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 798.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION
OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
REV. ZAIDAN'S PRIESTHOOD AND
THE LIFE OF JOHN MILAD
NISSER

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, as a Lebanese American, I rise here today to recognize the celebration of St. Maron Feast Day on February 11, 2007, by The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Lebanon in Los Angeles. They are planning a grand banquet at the Biltmore Hotel for this occasion and are honoring the 20th anniversary of the priesthood of Father Abdallah Zaidan, their pastor, and John Milad Nisser, who is receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born in Kseibe, Lebanon, Rev. Zaidan joined the Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries and earned his Master's degrees at St. John's University in New York. He entered Novitiate in September 1980 and was ordained in July 1986. Father Abdallah E. Zaidan received his Master's in Theology in 1986, his Master's in Philosophy in 1987, and his Master's in Education in 1990.

Beginning his service in Lebanon as a Chaplain and teacher, Rev. Zaidan immigrated to the United States in 1988. He became Assistant Rector at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, and in January 1990, became Pastor of St. George Maronite Catholic Church in San Antonio. Beginning in August 1992, Father Zaidan became Regional Superior of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries in the United States and is currently the Rector of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral in Los Angeles, and Protopresbyter for the Southwest and Northwest Regions of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, as well as several other important positions within the church and the community. I join the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Lebanon to congratulate Rev. Zaidan for his 20 years of wonderful service.

Furthermore, I would also like to honor John Milad Nisser who will be presented the Lifetime Achievement Award. John Nisser was born in Batroun, a small town north of Beirut, in Lebanon. His father died when he was just 15, so John took it upon himself to provide for his family by taking odd jobs and tutoring the children of wealthy families. By doing so, he was able to provide for the other five children

while becoming fluent in French, Arabic, English, and later Spanish. In 1947, John left Lebanon and journeyed first to South America and eventually to California. In California, he turned to the place of his faith for comfort and joined the church of Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon. Here he married Rosalie Barhouse in 1949. Dreaming of owning his own business, he purchased and operated a small market. Still, he wanted to do more. After finally securing the necessary loans, he and Rosalie built and managed several apartment buildings, and later constructed three senior citizen homes. Through all this, he has never stopped giving thanks to God and his country for what life has given him. Due to his generosity, the church of St. Stephens in Batroun has been given new windows, an organ, pews, and a hearse. He has sponsored the building of the St. Vincent DePaul nursing home and set up an Endowment Fund through Our Lady of Mount Lebanon to provide for the poor in Lebanon. Here in the United States, many Lebanese transfer students were offered free rent in his apartments during the duration of their education. Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon has consistently been a recipient of his generosity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these two men who have contributed greatly to their communities and touched the lives of many.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate a crown jewel of Northwestern Ohio on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

The University of Findlay was founded as Findlay College in 1882 by the Churches of God, General Conference. Back then, the City of Findlay's total population was less than 5,000; today, total enrollment at the University is approaching that milestone. The 1989 renaming of the College better reflects the size of the student population and the wide variety of academic programs offered: degrees are now awarded in more than 60 undergraduate areas.

Throughout its history, the University has earned accolades for its hands' on learning environment and its excellent faculty' student ratios. Named a 2007 Best Midwestern College by the Princeton Review, Findlay excels in distance learning programs through cutting-edge technologies; all of the required coursework to earn a Master of Business Administration degree may be taken online.

I am especially proud of the University's innovative work on terrorism response initiatives. Following the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, Ken Zirkle, who was then serving as President of the University, came to Congress to discuss how communities could better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks. Since then, Congress has helped the University form the Center for Terrorism Preparedness, a nationally recognized program that is helping first responders deal with emerging threats to our homeland.

Madam Speaker, ceremonies marking the 125th anniversary of the University's founding will take place on campus later this week. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Findlay on this historic occasion. The people of Hancock County and throughout Ohio can take great pride in the work done at the University to prepare students to meet the challenges of the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERYONE
DESERVES UNCONDITIONAL AC-
CESS TO EDUCATION (EDUCATE)
ACT MANDATORY FULL FUNDING
FOR IDEA BIPARTISAN COM-
PROMISE BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everyone Deserves Unconditional Access to Education Act, a bill to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I thank my colleagues, Representatives FERGUSON and HOOLEY, for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, it was more than 30 years ago that Congress passed IDEA, requiring states to provide an appropriate education to students with special needs. At that time, Congress promised states that it would cover 40 percent of the costs to meet this goal. However, Congress has yet to fulfill its promise to states. In fact, Congress has never met even half of its commitment. This is unacceptable.

The bill I introduce today with Representatives FERGUSON and HOOLEY will fulfill our promise to states with guaranteed funding increases for IDEA every year. It will relieve the burden on states and ensure a quality education for all special needs students. And it will restore the integrity of this Congress by ensuring that a promise made is a promise kept.

Madam Speaker, states and students have waited more than 30 years for Congress to fulfill its pledge. I encourage members from both sides of the aisle to join with Representatives FERGUSON, HOOLEY, and me to support our schools and provide our students with the resources they need.

HONORING DOUGLAS D.
HAWTHORNE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been my distinct honor over the years to take note of the extraordinary valuable work done by Douglas D. Hawthorne for the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the State of Texas and this Nation.

Mr. Hawthorne, president and chief executive of Texas Health Resources was recognized this fall, when he received the Greer Garson-E.E. Fogelson Humanitarian Award at the Greer Garson Gala. Mr. Hawthorne serves